



News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20546

For Release

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February 3, 2000

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RELEASE: 2000-028

Former NASA Contractor Employee Sentenced

On January 28, 2000, Erich L. Gillespie, Camden, NJ, a former Cortez III employee at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA, was sentenced in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, to five years probation, 100 hours of community service, and a \$2,000 fine. Gillespie pled guilty in October 1999, to one count of Receiving an Unlawful Gratuity (18 U.S.C. Section 201(c)(1)(A)), and making a False Declaration Before a Grand Jury (18 U.S.C. 1623).

Gillespie admitted to receiving a monetary payment of \$5,000 from Charles A. White, the owner and operator of White's Aircraft Parts, Fruitland, MD, for information received concerning the auction of a C-130 airplane at Wallops Island. Also, Gillespie, knowingly made a false material declaration, while under oath and testifying in a proceeding before a Federal Grand Jury of the United States, in the Eastern District of Virginia.

On October 20, 1999, White was acquitted of Giving an Unlawful Gratuity (18 U.S.C. 201(c)(1)(A)), and making False Statements (18 U.S.C. 1001).

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Alan Salsbury, Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division, Norfolk, Virginia (757) 441-6331.

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